

## **Hiking**

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
White River National Forest  
Sopris Ranger District

Date-1999  
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### **LYLE/MORMON LAKES TRAIL, #1919:** **IN HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS**

**Length:** 3.3/5.3 mi/km

**Elevation Gain:** 760, 1,280 ft. at highest

**Beginning Elev:** 10,720 ft.

**USGS Map(s):** Nast

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Use:** light

**End Elev:** 11,480, 12,000 ft. at highest

**Trailhead starts at LAT/LONG:** 39.17.50.4N/106.31.57.4W

**UTM:** 0368351E, 4350304N

**ACCESS:** From Carbondale travel east on Hwy 82 to Basalt. Turn left at the stoplight and travel 33 miles until the pavement ends, bear left and go 10 more miles until you come to a sign pointing to Hagerman Pass. Turn left onto road #105 for 100 feet. Park at the bulletin board.

**NARRATIVE:** If you decide to go on this hike, it is one of the most scenic in the Fryingpan River area. The trail goes through acres of broad valleys and scattered trees for the first 1.5 miles to Lyle Lake. About 300 feet above and 1/4 of a mile further than Lyle Lake is a tarn (a small lake) one might want to explore before going on to Mormon Lake. Once getting to Lyle Lake you have two choices on how to get to Mormon Lake; the path to the right is shorter, but involves crossing a small boulder field. Follow the trail over the crest and get ready for a gentle traverse. You will climb until you get on another crest and down a rocky slope. At the bottom of this slope begin traversing the wall at the valley's head to a grassy vale, pass a tarn on your left, veering left and you then will be able to see Mormon Lake 80 feet below.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** Wilderness areas are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not a renewable resource. Any careless act can upset this natural balance and result in destruction. By following these ethics and regulations you can help protect and preserve the natural features of the Wilderness for future visits. **Please respect the land and rights of others!**

- Out of consideration for others and wildlife - **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.**
- Trash - **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!**
- Limit group sizes to 25 people and/or stock/pack animals.
- **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 - 8 inches in the soil.
- Lightweight campstoves are recommended and required above the timberline.
- Camp 100 feet from water and trails, and use existing sites when possible.
- Do not wash or bathe in lakes or streams. Use biodegradable soap far from water source.
- Stay on trail and do not shortcut switchbacks, which cause erosion.